

SECRET

JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Friday - 30 April 1971

25X1 1. [] JMM) Accompanied Bruce Clarke, D/OSR, who briefed Chairman John Stennis, Senate Armed Services Committee, and Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel, on recent developments in Soviet strategic weapons. The Chairman had requested the briefing preparatory to this morning's formal Armed Services Committee hearings at which General Bruce Holloway of SAC is testifying.

25X1 2. [] JMM) Received a telephone call from Flora Lewis, of Newsday, inquiring about my meeting yesterday with Senator George McGovern to discuss the drug situation in Southeast Asia. I refused to answer Miss Lewis' numerous questions about that conversation. See Memo for Record.

25X1 3. [] - RJK) Delivered to the offices of Senators Ernest F. Hollings (D., S. C.), Edward Kennedy (D., Mass.), George McGovern (D., S. Dak.), Jacob Javits (R., N. Y.), Fred Harris (D., Okla.), Frank Church (D., Idaho), Edmund Muskie (D., Me.), and J. William Fulbright (D., Ark.), FBIS items in which their names were mentioned.

25X1 4. [] - RJK) Met with Stan Brand, in the office of Representative Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. (D., Mass.), and gave him a suggested reply and two Agency pamphlets in response to an inquiry the Congressman received from a []

25X1 5. [] - JGO) Met with Mr. William Cook, Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, who told me that the Fisher Subcommittee took no final action on Wednesday on H. R. 6483, to provide authority for the grade of general in the Marine Corps. Request has been made by the Committee that an appropriate amendment be provided by Marine Headquarters limiting the number of persons that can hold 4-star rank under the bill.

25X1 6. [] - JGO) Talked to Morella Hansen, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, who outlined the schedule of witnesses who will be appearing before the Church Subcommittee for testimony on Brazil. The Director has been advised.

SECRET

30 April 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Flora Lewis re Meeting with
Senator George McGovern

This morning, Miss Lewis, of Newsday, called to say she understood I had talked yesterday with Senator McGovern about the drug situation in Southeast Asia, and that we were providing a written response to some of the Senator's questions. She asked when this response would be available. I said I couldn't tell her anything about this. She said she already knew something about my conversation with McGovern, and simply wanted to be sure of not making any mistakes in writing it up. She said she had the impression from someone on the Senator's staff that we gave some confirmation to some of the points made by Senator McGovern. I said I was not free to discuss the subject with her--that my conversation with McGovern had been in confidence. She asked if the information on which our reply to McGovern was based had been ascertained here in Washington or in the field. I said I could not tell her anything about this. She asked again if I could tell her when we would have our reply ready for the Senator and I said I could not. After a long pause, she said it was nice to talk with me again (referring to our meeting several years ago in Athens).

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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

Original -Subject

1 - Drug file

1 - Chrono

OLC 71-0292
April 29, 1971

The Honorable
George McGovern
United States Senate

Dear Senator McGovern:

The Secretary has asked me to reply to your letter of April 13 regarding the illicit international traffic in narcotics and, in particular, the substantial sources in Southeast Asia of illicit opium production.

The Administration shares the deep concern of the Congress and the American people over the effect that narcotics abuse, particularly heroin, is having on the quality of life in the United States and especially on the younger generation of Americans. We consider the elimination of the illegal production and the illegal international traffic of opium, other narcotics and other dangerous drugs to be of the highest priority. To that end we are working through every available channel--nationally, bilaterally with individual foreign countries, and internationally within the United Nations and the drug control treaties.

The Administration is particularly concerned with the recent appearance in Viet-Nam and the availability to American armed forces personnel in that area of heroin in increasing quantities. This traffic is receiving the thorough investigation which the gravity of the situation warrants. The United States military and civil authorities are making every possible effort to identify the sources and channels for this traffic with a view to its interdiction, and we are consulting with the governments of Viet-Nam and of other nearby countries in order to obtain their necessary cooperation. An inter-departmental group during a visit to Viet-Nam and other countries of Southeast Asia in February 1971 looked into this serious problem, in consultation with our Embassies and military commands. The Director of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs will be giving this problem special attention during his visit to Southeast Asia in early May.

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The world illicit production of opium (as distinguished from the legal production which was officially reported to be 1219 metric tons in 1969) is of course not exactly known but can only be estimated. Based on available evidence world illicit production exceeds legal production and may be from 1260 to 1395 metric tons annually. The major part, probably about 60 percent, comes from cultivation in the northern provinces of Burma, Thailand and Laos in areas of insurgency not subject to control by the governments of those countries. Although the principal sources of heroin entering the United States continue to be in the Middle East, about 10 percent is believed to come from sources in the Far East and this percentage is likely to increase as national and international action against illicit production and traffic in the Middle East and Europe becomes more effective.

The other reports cited in your letter are being examined and will be the subject of comment in a subsequent letter.

This situation of uncontrolled opium production and open traffic in illicit opium and its derivatives in substantial areas of Southeast Asia is a demonstration of the difficult and complex nature of the problem of bringing drug abuse worldwide under effective control. It illustrates the connection between illicit supplies, traffic and demand and the need to work upon all three factors of this equation. It illustrates that drug control is not only a national but also an international problem which requires both bilateral cooperation and multilateral action.

Consequently the Administration has not only been intensifying its cooperative arrangements and activities with individual countries but it has also been launching multilateral initiatives and stimulating multilateral cooperation in drug control.

Last year the United States proposed an expanded United Nations program for drug abuse control. In March of this year the UN Secretary General established a special and voluntary United Nations Fund to provide extraordinary resources

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for an expanded program, and on April 1 the United States made available 1 million dollars or one-half of its initial pledge to get this Fund started and in operation. I am enclosing a copy of the message the Secretary General sent to all members of the United Nations informing them of the Fund and requesting their support and contributions. The Fund will provide resources for technical assistance, training and pilot projects for crop substitution. An area of priority attention will be Southeast Asia. I hope the UN Program and Fund will receive continuing support from the Congress.

Last year also the United States served notice of its intention to propose amendments to strengthen the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 to which 82 countries are Parties. In March of this year the Administration presented specific amendments to the UN Secretary General, and he has circulated them to the Parties and to the Economic and Social Council. We have been discussing them during the past month with other governments. We intend to ask ECOSOC at its upcoming April-May meeting to convene an international conference in early 1972 to consider our and other proposals that may be submitted to make the treaty on international narcotics control more effective. I think you will be interested in Ambassador Bush's letter and memorandum of March 21 to the Secretary General and enclose a copy.

Finally the United States has been participating in the international effort to bring the psychotropic substances under international control. When the United States asks for the cooperation of other countries in more effective control of opium production, it must be prepared to regulate the manufacture and export of dangerous drugs of United States origin. On February 21 the United States signed subject to ratification the Convention which was adopted by the United Nations Conference on Psychotropic Substances. I am enclosing a copy

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of the United Nations press release issued upon the conclusion of the Conference.

Sincerely yours,

David M. Abshire
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations


3 Enclosures:

1. Aide-Memoire dated March 26, 1971
from Secretary-General U Thant.
2. Letter from Ambassador Bush to UN
addressed to Secretary-General
dated March 18, 1971.
3. Press Release - Conference on
Psychotropic Drugs, dated Feb. 19, 1971.

Clearance:

IO/HDC - Miss Gough (substance) *X-20591*
EA/RA - Mr. Vandiver *21260*
BNDD - Mr. Parker
H - Mr. Weiss
S/S-S - Mr. Dunbar

S/NM:HRWellman:td

X-23602 

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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ACTION
is assigned to



April 13, 1971

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Dear Mr. Secretary:

The traffic in hard narcotics, the opium derivatives, is among the most insidious and deadly threats to our domestic safety and well-being.

These drugs destroy hundreds of thousands of lives each year, and the number is growing rapidly. Beyond that, hard drug addiction authors a vast proportion of all other crime--as much as 90 percent in New York City, for example--which is committed by users seeking funds to sustain their habits. A recent study in the District of Columbia found that 45 percent of a sampling of the D.C. jail population was addicted to heroin.

This general grave concern is now coupled with the more recent problem of hard drug addiction acquired by United States servicemen returning from Indochina. The Commissioner of New York's Addiction Services Agency has written to me that,

"Most recent reports on drug addiction and drug abuse do indicate that there is an increase in these phenomena among American servicemen and there is very little doubt that a significantly greater part of New York servicemen returning to civilian life have been or are addicted, or have developed a propensity to addiction."

Dr. Robert DuPont, director of Washington D.C.'s Narcotics Treatment Administration, reports that his agency has undertaken a systematic study of the relationship between military service and heroin use. He told me recently that,

Signed George Mc Govern

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U.S. SENATE

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"Our earlier investigations showed that about 25 percent of the heroin addict patients in treatment with the Narcotics Treatment Administration, and about 25 percent of the heroin addicts admitted to the D.C. jail, are veterans."

Last year the Veterans Administration established the treatment of drug dependence as a special medical program, including plans for 30 specialized units for the rehabilitation of drug dependent veterans. V.A. Administrator Donald Johnson has advised me that his agency is not in a position to assess the true magnitude of this problem.

In his State of the World Message, President Nixon quite properly singled out plans to deal with the international sources of supply of heroin as an essential, central element in any serious effort to control this vicious drug. He indicated that the Administration has worked closely with a number of governments, particularly Turkey, France, and Mexico, to seek an end to illicit production and smuggling of narcotics.

On the basis of this background, I am deeply disturbed by reports, including those contained in the current issue of Ramparts Magazine, that the vast majority of all heroin production comes not from Turkey, not from France or Mexico, but from Southeast Asia, and that U.S. policy and personnel, instead of discouraging this traffic, have actually assisted its growth.

I would very much appreciate your comments on the following points raised in the enclosed article:

- (1) The report that, according to the United Nations Commission on Drugs and Narcotics, at least 80 percent of the world's 1200 tons of illicit opium comes from Southeast Asia. According to an Iranian report to a United Nations seminar on the subject, some 83 percent of the world's illegal supply originates in the Fertile Triangle region which includes parts of Burma, northern Thailand and Laos.

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- (2) The report that Nationalist Chinese or Kuomintang forces operating in that region control and profit from the opium trade, that these forces supplement their income by performing missions for the United States, and that the Burmese government has protested this activity both to the United States and the United Nations.
- (3) The report that opium is the basic source of income for Meo tribesmen in Laos, and that General Vang Pao, commander of Lao counterinsurgency forces made up of Meo tribesmen and supported by the United States, uses aircraft supplied by this country to transport opium from the surrounding area to the base of Long Cheng.
- (4) The report that General Ouane Rathikoune of the Royal Laotian Army exercises broad control over the opium traffic in Laos, including ownership of several "cookers" for refining it, and that he and other interested parties transport raw opium in equipment supplied by the United States military assistance program.
- (5) The implication that opium production and collection in Laos is conducted with the knowledge of Central Intelligence Agency officials, particularly in the area surrounding Long Cheng, and that CIA operations there actually serve to protect these supplies and facilitate their movement.
- (6) The report that high Vietnamese officials, including Vice President Ky, have been and may currently be involved in the transport of opium from the Fertile Triangle region to Saigon and in its distribution there.

Certainly these reports, along with others in the article, warrant a thorough investigation. Indeed, considering our determination to end the menace of heroin addiction in this country, I will be surprised if such an investigation has not already been completed and if we are not currently

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involved in vigorous diplomatic efforts to close off this source. Considering the number of independent sources which have reported knowledge of vast opium production in the Fertile Triangle region, it seems to me that it would be impossible for it to escape the attention of U.S. agencies operating there.

Along with your comments on the points listed above I would, therefore, very much appreciate a report on initiatives the United States has undertaken to cut off this major source of opium supply, including any restrictions on military assistance aimed at preventing the use of American equipment in collecting and transporting this treacherous commodity.

Sincerely,


George McGovern

Honorable William Rogers
Secretary of State
U. S. Department of State
Washington, D.C.

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H - Mr. Walter Weiss

April 26, 1971

S/IM - Harvey R. Wellman

Senator McGovern's Letter of April 13
on International Narcotics Control

In consultation with the action office (EA) I have drafted an interim reply (attached) to this letter.

EA/RA will assume responsibility for preparing a second letter of reply which will include comments on the reports on elements in Southeast Asia alleged to be responsible for illicit opium production and traffic in that area.

The Central Intelligence Agency has received a similar letter. The Office of the Legislative Counsel will inform your office of its proposed reply, which may be made orally and will reportedly deal only with the report on alleged CIA involvement. I am sending a copy of our interim reply to Mr. [redacted] Assistant Legislative Counsel, CIA, telephone [redacted]

I am also sending a copy of our interim reply to Frank Bartimo, Assistant General Counsel, Department of Defense. I believe that Defense should have the opportunity to propose comments for possible inclusion in the Department's second letter of reply. I understand that a similar letter has not been sent by Senator McGovern to the Defense Department.

I am also sending a copy of our interim reply to BNED (Justice) who has received from CIA a copy of Senator McGovern's letter.

Enclosure;

As noted above.
S/NM:HRWellman:td

cc: EA - Mr. Vandiver
S/S-S Mr. Dunbar
IO/HDC - Miss Gough
J -
BNDD - Mr. Parker
Defense - Mr. Bartimo

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